**AP Biology Syllabus: 2016-2017**

Instructor: **Cliff Moran Room # S-211**

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**Course Description**

AP Biology is a year-long course that is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Exam in Biology. The course is designed around the new AP Biology curriculum framework that focuses on the Big Ideas in biology and their connections. The curriculum provides a basis for students to develop strong conceptual understanding in biology and the opportunity to integrate that knowledge through inquiry-based activities and laboratory investigations. There is less memorization and more content depth. Critical reading skills are *extremely* important for the format of the new test.

The AP Biology curriculum is structured around four **Big Ideas**: ***Evolution, Energy Processes, Information*** and ***Interactions***. These ideas encompass the core principles and theories of all living systems. To master the concepts, students will use many different modes of curriculum like: textbooks, inquiry labs, activities, video lectures, current event articles and case studies.

**AP Exam College Credit**

Colleges vary in what score they will accept for credit. A score of 3 or better is passing.

**The AP Biology Exam** *Test Date: Monday, May 8th @ 8:00 a.m.*

**Pre-requisites** – Successful completion of biology and chemistry with a B or A. Excellent work habits and a self-motivating student is a must! Come prepared every day.

**Materials**

1.Textbook:**Biology 10th Edition by Campbell** *(keep at home)*

2. Notebook: bound, composition type college ruled paper

3. Binder: 1-2”

4. 4-function calculator with square root (not a graphing or scientific calculator)

5. Internet Access: for online textbook and other required online assignments

6. 2016 AP Biology study books are always highly recommended. Cliff Notes, Barrons, Princeton Review etc.

7. Multi-Colored Pens – blue, black, red and green

**Class Expectations:**

* Come to class prepared! In order to facilitate class discussions and reduce lecture time in favor of labs and knowledge enhancing activities, you need to complete all required assignments. 45-30 minutes of reviewing, reading or class work should be done EVERYDAY. This is a college level course. It will be challenging. It will require a significant amount of time outside of class.
* Come to class! The work we will be doing during class cannot be replicated at home, labs in particular. Missed labs or activities are difficult to make up and, unless it is an excused absence, any missed labs will be given a zero.
* *Always write in complete sentences. Yes, you have to show your work. Yes, you have to write out procedures, data tables, and label graphs. Yes, you are expected to show a higher level of understanding on ALL of your assignments.*

**Assessments**

Unit tests are in the multiple-choice format, which comprises 50% of the AP exam. The questions are written so the student must “think and apply” their knowledge. Real world scenarios are often tested, as well as, lab experiments.

FRQ’s are “Free Response Questions” which comprise 50% of the AP exam. These are essay format with answers written out in in complete sentences.

Quizzes may be announced *and* unannounced. This is to check understanding and make sure students are keeping up with the material. (Quizzes are usually once a week!)

**Grades:** Weighted in the following categories:

***Tests, FRQ’s and quizzes – 65%***

***Labs and Lab Activities– 25%***

***Homework and Notebook – 10%***

**Late Work**

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED. *However, you may make a donation to the classroom to receive* ***2 Late Work Passes*** *for the semester. A donation of (paper towels, non-latex gloves, or liquid hand soap) will be accepted. The passes are only given out the first two weeks of the semester.*

**Make-up Work**

Excused absences will be given 2-days for every day absent, as stated in the student handbook. (Remember, your first day back is 1 of the 2 days.)

**Notebooks**: *This should be your best study tool!* You will have collected information from many sources: lecture notes, video notes, textbooks, labs and other activities. It will be collected unit test day and given points for completeness and effort. Bring this to class every day. *(We have 9 unit tests so only 9 times will the notebook be collected.)*

**After the AP Exam**: Additional biology material will be studied that is not part of AP exam, but are still requirements of the class. Labs, quizzes and tests will continue until the end of the school year. There are 5 weeks after the AP Exam and school is not over yet.